Filed: March 26, 2004

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Amendment

In the Claims

1-31. (Cancelled).

32. (Previously Presented) A graft comprising (1) a bioabsorbable filament having an exterior

surface and a central lumen opening through the exterior surface, wherein the central lumen

comprises a hydrophilic interior effective to wick the cells into the filament; and (2) cells capable

of initiating hair follicle neogenesis comprising epidermal cells and dermal cells disposed within

the lumen.

33. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the dermal cells are obtained from

skin, hair follicles, dermal papilla, or dermal sheath.

34. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the dermal cells are an aggregated

clump of dermal cells.

35. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the epidermal cells are obtained from

skin, hair follicles, inner root sheath, outer root sheath, or matrix.

36. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the central lumen has an interior wall.

37. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the epidermal cells are adhered to the

interior wall of the lumen.

38. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the epidermal cells are adjacent to the

interior wall of the lumen.

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39. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the interior wall of the lumen is

smooth.

40. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the interior wall of the lumen is

porous.

41. (Cancelled).

42. (Cancelled).

43. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the bioabsorbable filament is porous.

44. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the interior wall of the lumen is coated

with a bioabsorbable filler material.

45. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the bioabsorbable filament is modified

with a modifier selected from the group consisting of angiogenesis factors, growth factors, cell

attachment binding site moieties, cell signaling molecules, proteins, glycoproteins, collagen,

laminin, and fibronectin.

46. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 45, wherein the cell attachment binding site moiety

is a peptide comprising a cell attachment domain sequence.

47. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 46, wherein the cell attachment domain sequence is

Arg-Gly-Asp.

48. (Previously Presented) A graft comprising (1) a bioabsorbable filament having a central

lumen having an interior wall; and (2) cells capable of initiating hair follicle neogenesis

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comprising epidermal cells and dermal cells, wherein the epidermal cells are adjacent to the

interior wall of the lumen, and the dermal cells are located within the lumen.

49.-50. (Cancelled).

51. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the epidermal and dermal cells are

derived from different sources.

52. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein the epidermal cells and dermal cells

are present in the graft in an amount and proportion sufficient to initiate hair follicle neogenesis.

53. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 32, wherein filament comprises a first end that is

closed.

54. (Previously Presented) The graft of claim 53, wherein the cells are concentrated at the first

end.

55. (New) The graft of claim 32, wherein the hydrophilic interior has a faster rate of

bioabsorption or liquefaction than the exterior of the filament.

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